

# Martin Considering Several Possibilities

**By MURRAY CHASS**

Just as he reached a settlement with George Steinbrenner on the remaining two years of his Yankee contract, apparently clearing the way to go to work for Charles O. Finley as manager of the Oakland A's, Billy Martin stepped back last night to consider several other "opportunities" available to him in baseball.

Judge Eddie Sapir of New Orleans, Martin's lawyer, mentioned those opportunities, without identifying them, and did not rule out the possibility that one of the opportunities could be with the Yankees.

"I'm going to take my time and Billy's going to take his time before we jump into anything," Sapir said by telephone from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., last night. "Before we accept any of these opportunities, we want to make sure we're doing the right thing."

Sapir added that he expected Martin to reach a decision this week.

Speculation on the Yankee job prospects stemmed from Sapir's comments on his proposal, which Steinbrenner said he had accepted. The proposal involved a settlement on the \$250,000 Martin was to earn as manager of the Yankees this year and next.

Steinbrenner declined to characterize it as a settlement because, he said, "I'm not under the gun." However, he added, "We have come to a conclusion on Eddie's proposal to me that I like. It involves the Yankees being very good to Billy and that's O.K. with me. It's something we want to do for him."

When Sapir was asked about Stein-

**Continued on Page B11, Column 1**

# Martin Undecided On Future

Continued From Page B7

Steinbrenner's comments, he said the Yankees' principal owner was "absolutely correct, but that's only one opportunity we have."

As for the settlement, Sapir said, "If we went one route, yes, it would be a settlement, but if we availed ourselves of another opportunity, that would be moot."

Asked if the opportunity that would render a settlement moot was with the Yankees, the lawyer said, "I really couldn't comment on that tonight."

Sapir and Doug Newton, Martin's agent, said they had spoken by conference call earlier last night with Finley, the A's owner, who is searching for a new manager. It had been understood previously that Martin was ready to accept the A's job, but Sapir said the other opportunities he referred to arose "simultaneously" with Finley's approach to Newton.

Because Steinbrenner dismissed Martin last October, Martin is free to take any other job without the Yankees having any hold on him.

Steinbrenner said he and the judge had been talking ever since Lee MacPhail, president of the American League, set March 6 as the date for a hearing into the Yankees' contention that they did not owe Martin the \$250,000 because he violated his contract when he hit Joseph W. Coopr in Bloomington, Minn., Oct. 23.

Steinbrenner said he and Sapir had just about reached a settlement last Thursday when "Finley entered the picture."